Enhancement of wages of labourers in the Unorganised Sector

1721. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have been considering enhancement of wages of labourers belonging to the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being contemplated to ascertain execution of decisions on enhancement in wages scrupulously?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Under the minimum Wages Act, the Central and the State Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/ revision of minimum rates of wages for scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Act provides for the review/revision of minimum rates of wages in period not exceeding five years. The Central Government is responsible for the fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in 40 scheduled employments. Of these, wages in agriculture were last revised on 12.8.1992, while the wages in the remaining 39 scheduled employments were revised on 12.7.1994. For all these employments provision of Variable Dearness Allowance also exists. The State Governments have also fixed minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction and revised these rates from time to time. They have also provided for the Variable Dearness Allowance in respect of certain scheduled employments. However, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to revise floor and fix level minimum wages at least upto Rs. 35/- per day, wherever they are below this rate at present. The appropriate Governments under the Act set to the required administrative machinery for enforcement of the Act. The enforcement machinery makes regular inspections and takes necessary action whenever any violation of the Act is detected. The Central Government also keep impressing upon the State Governments the need to take appropriate measures to improve effectiveness of the Act in their respective States. The steps recommended include utilisation of services of the officers of other departments like Revenue, Agriculture, Co-operation etc, in the enforcement of the Act, to increase the number of inspectors, to give wide publicity to the provisions of the Act through various media like Radio, Press etc.

Centrally sponsored Scheme for Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST and OBC Students in Bihar

1722. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored scheme for the upgradation of merit of SC, ST and OBC students is being implemented in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students from these categories covered under the scheme in the State as on date; and

(d) any other steps Government propose to take to upgrade the merit of these students of the State to bring them at per with the all India level?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) A Central Sector scheme of upgradation of merit of SC/ST students is being implemented. There is, however, no such scheme for OBC students.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 10,76,700/- was released to the Govt, of Bihar during 1988-89. But the State